

Rapid Eye  
Questions and Answers  
Dated January 08, 2008

Please submit Rapid Eye program related questions to  
[BAA07-57@darpa.mil](mailto:BAA07-57@darpa.mil)  
**Items in yellow are newly submitted questions.**

*Note: Questions from Rapid Eye Industry Day have all been taken into account in the development of the BAA. Guidance in the BAA supersedes information provided in the Industry Day answers.*

1. The BAA does not specify a specific altitude for loiter. Is the intent to open the design trade space to include a lower altitude as long as survivability can be maintained?

Answer: A primary objective in the early part of Phase I is to conduct detailed design trade studies to define a Rapid Eye system design that best meets program objectives and maximizes military utility. Survivability, as defined in the BAA, should be one of the parameters considered in these trade studies.

2. May we request an extension of the proposal due date?

Answer: After consideration of both the bidder's and government's timelines, the proposal due date is extended to 23 January, 2008 at 1500 EST.

3. During Industry Day, the program manager discussed the potential for a separate parallel effort to conduct risk reduction for a lithium hydride propulsion system however this is not mentioned in the BAA. Is the Government no longer interested in LiH propulsion as a candidate for Rapid Eye?

Answer: Although LiH was highlighted as a high risk, potentially high payoff technology area during Industry Day, DARPA acknowledges that there are other similarly high risk, high payoff technologies or that LiH may be judged too high risk for this development program. DARPA did not intend at Industry Day to give the impression that LiH was the only such technology that would be considered nor did DARPA want to appear to be advocating LiH as a preferred propulsion system approach. Offerors should develop their point of departure conceptual designs and program plans by making their own assessment of technology feasibility, as well as development, cost and schedule risk that results in a Rapid Eye development and demonstration program that can be completed within a reasonable timeframe and yet provide robust performance. As a result, the BAA includes more generic language that gives offerors the opportunity to propose whatever solution they believe will offer the greatest performance for the lowest cost and schedule risk.

4. Are the cover sheet and transmittal letter excluded from the page count?

~~Answer: No~~

Note: Answer to question number four is in error and has been superseded by the answer to question number 14, please see below.

5. How will performance greater than the requirements be evaluated, as the Evaluation Criteria have no provisions for giving credit for meeting the three desired attributes?

Answer: Each of the three desired (but not required) attributes, as well as any system performance that exceeds the BAA requirements may result in a system with enhanced military utility. In our evaluation, under “POD Concept and Substantiation”, the Government will evaluate the extent to which the offeror’s POD concept and its system capabilities has military utility.

6. Are resumes included in the page count?

Answer: Yes

7. Graphics are generally easier to read when created and inserted into Word using PowerPoint. Is it acceptable to insert them using PowerPoint if we also provide them as separate GIF or JPEG files?

Answer: Yes

8. Is the Compliance Matrix part of the page count?

Answer: No

9. In Section IV. B. 1. a) Proposal Format , the government states that, “*Sections II-V* of Volume I shall not exceed fifty (50) pages total, excluding the offeror’s statement of work and integrated master schedule.” However, in Section IV. B. 1. c) Section IV. Risk Reduction Options, the government says, “There are no limits to the number and types of [Phase I] Risk Reduction Options that an offeror may propose.” Does the government intend on including the Section VI. Risk Reduction Options in the 50 page limit?

Answer: Risk reduction options may be described outside the page count however discussion is limited to one page per option.

10. Throughout the BAA, the government references an “existing solid-rocket” as the baseline launch vehicle for the Rapid Eye Program. Generally, this is acknowledged as the Orbital Sciences Minotaur IV Launch Vehicle and the faring that was described at Industry Day was

for an Orbital Sciences Minotaur IV Launch Vehicle. In order to do the analysis to determine the global reach and reentry conditions, the offerors need specific performance data on the Orbital Sciences Minotaur IV Launch Vehicle beyond what is available publicly. Will the government provide the necessary Orbital Sciences Minotaur IV Launch Vehicle Performance Data to enable the offerors to perform the analysis to determine reentry conditions and global reach?

Answer: As stated in the question, the government only states that the proposed system use an “existing solid-rocket”. For the proposal, it is the bidder’s responsibility to determine the performance data for their selected launch system. The government will work with awardees of this BAA during the Phase I to acquire the performance data for their selected launch system.

11. BAA Pg 6 states “Aircraft payload weight must be at least 500 lbs. The payload is considered to include all ISR sensors, computational systems and necessary communication systems.” Is the 500 lbs and installed or uninstalled weight?

Answer: Installed weight

12. BAA Pg 14 states “System has capability for delivery of a deployable aircraft from an alert pad to over 80% of the world’s landmass.” What is the definition of world’s landmass? Does this include continental U.S. and Antarctica?

Answer: Offerors may consider the definition of world landmass to exclude the continental U.S. and Antarctica.

13. The government requires that. “Proposals must define Phase I work through at least level 4.” This is based on the WBS outline that is included in this section. Does the government expect offerors to this BAA to fully populate this WBS down to the fourth level across all WBS elements or is the intent for the offerors to populate, where appropriate, this WBS to the fourth level. Specifically, where the government has only defined the WBS to the second level, is it the government’s intention that offerors will populate the WBS two full levels below that or will one level be sufficient?

Answer: Offerors should define a WBS for use in all phases, but the government does not anticipate that work will be performed in all WBS areas during Phase I. The SOW, IMS and cost estimate only need to contain entries to WBS level 4 where Phase I work will be performed. Other areas can be marked as "reserved" until used in later phases. Therefore, if work is intended to be performed in Phase I in a defined WBS area, the WBS should be filled out two full levels below WBS level 2. An amended version of the

BAA will be issued that specifically incorporates changes in the instructions for the WBS.

14. The answer to a previously published question, # 4, states that the cover sheet and transmittal letter are not excluded from the page count. This is in contradiction to BAA instructions in Section IV that states “Sections II-V of Volume I shall not exceed fifty (50) pages total, excluding the offeror’s statement of work and integrated master schedule.” Please clarify which one is correct.

Answer: The BAA is correct and the previously published answer is in error. The fifty page count maximum includes just Sections II-V of Volume I, excluding the offeror’s statement of work and integrated master schedule.

15. Can you clarify the proposal submittal requirements? Section IV.B.I.a of the BAA calls for an original, 9 hard copies and 2 CD ROMs to be submitted. Section IV.C.1 of the BAA calls for an original, 8 hard copies and 2 CD ROMs to be submitted.

Answer: The two statements, as worded in the BAA, are not in conflict. The first calls for nine hardcopies. The second calls for an original signed hardcopy and eight unsigned hardcopies for a total of nine hardcopies.